

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:749

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CANCER AFFECTED CHILDREN

Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up a fund for providing financial assistance to the children for the treatment of deadly disease like Cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government for the welfare of 50 thousand children dying of cancer every year in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) to (c): Health being a State subject, it is for various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available to all including children. The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Government in providing treatment by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals/RCCs under National Cancer Control Programme.

Further, financial assistance is provided under the scheme 'Health Minister's Discretionary Grant', to the poor and needy patients to meet a part of expenditure on hospitalization for undergoing major surgical interventions and treatment of major diseases including cancer. In addition under the scheme, "Rashtria Arogya Nidhi", financial assistance is provided to poor patients living Below Poverty Line. This assistance is extended to those who suffer from major life threatening diseases, including cancer and receiving medical treatment at any super speciality Government Hospital. The Government is also considering for setting up of "Health Minister's Cancer Fund" for providing financial assistance to poor and needy patients, for treatment of cancer.